

give us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Vs. 8. God, having forgiven his sins, would take his thoughts away from himself, and put him to work. But God does not send him forth under compulsion. He calls for volunteers and Isaiah answers the call. In thankful acknowledgment of the forgiveness of his sins, he is ready to render any service that God will give him to do, and does not stop to ask what it is to be. When God calls upon us to serve Him in any way, let us remember how He has forgiven us and has provided us salvation. This ought to make us willing to do whatever work God gives us to do.

Vs. 9, 10. The work that God gave Isaiah to do was not a pleasant one, nor was it calculated to make him popular with his people. He was sent to tell them that they were very foolish in closing their eyes, their ears and their hearts to the messages that God had sent them. One of the hard things that the preacher of to-day has to do is to tell the people how foolish and sinful they are when they reject God's plan of salvation.

Vs. 11, 12. When Isaiah asked how long he was to proclaim this warning message of coming destruction, he

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was told that it was to be until the destruction was complete. Sometimes it seems that the only way God can bring people to their senses is first to bring them to destruction. This was frequently the case with Israel, as it has been with other nations. God has often dealt in the same way with individuals.

Vs. 13. Though Israel should be brought very low, God would save a few who would remain true, and who would be as seed to bring forth a new nation. God has often sent severe punishments upon the world because of its sin. But He has always had some who had not bowed the knee to Baal. Though man may have brought severe punishment upon himself, because of his sins, still there is left in him the ability to turn away from sin unto God, if he wants to do so.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES

### LITTLE THINGS MAKE OR MAR.

M., June 25. Procrastination. Prov. 6:1-11.  
T., June 26. Mistake. Eccl. 10:1-3.  
W., June 27. Lack of judgment. Heb. 12:15-17.  
Th., June 28. A little word. Prov. 15:23-33.  
F., June 29. A little love. John 12:1-8.  
S., June 30. A chance meeting. John 4:1-15.  
S., July 1. Topic—Little Things That Make or Mar. Song of Sol. 2:15; Prov. 25:11.

*How do small faults spoil moral beauty?  
Why should faithfulness in small things lead to larger opportunities?  
How may we avoid small faults that mar?*

It is hard to realize how important a part little things have in the world. The fact is that everything, no matter how great, is made up of little things. The ocean is made up of little drops of water. The mountains are composed of little grains of sand. The mightiest army is made up of individual men. The longest life is made up of seconds of time. The noblest character is made up of little things in life and thought.

**Procrastination** (Prov. 6:1-11): It is putting off a duty that ought to be done. Most people will not come right out and refuse to do a duty. But many are willing enough to put off the doing of it. It is so easy just to sit down and do nothing and ease your conscience by saying that you will do it after awhile. This is wrong for several reasons. When God gives you a duty to perform He expects immediate obedience. If the task is postponed, the probability is that it will not be done at all. Or if the duty of to-day is postponed until to-morrow and performed then, to-day has been lost, and the duty belonging to to-morrow will not be performed. This time is lost. He who takes care of the silver moments will have no trouble about the golden days.

**Mistakes** (Eccl. 10:1-3): It is doubtful whether anyone ever falls into a great sin at first. We sometimes hear of some man who has stood high in the community and who has suddenly fallen into great sin. A little careful examination will show that little sins had found their way into his heart and life. He had been able to conceal them, but at last they grew into a great sin. Diseases, the doctors tell us, are caused by infinitesimal germs. These are doubly dangerous, because they are so small. They are hard to guard against. If a man is standing near the edge of a precipice a single step may mean his destruction, if taken in the wrong direction. It means safety, if taken away from danger.

**Lack of Judgment** (Heb. 12:15-17): Esau showed very poor judgment. He put a little thing in place of a big thing. He allowed his appetite to rule him at the cost of the future of his life. When he was hungry he did not stop to reason, but gave way to his desire for food, and for a "mess of pottage." There are

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many people who ruin their health and their usefulness by eating something because it is pleasant to their taste; just as there are many who do the same thing by drink.

**A Little Word** (Prov. 15:23-33): Words are little things, but they have much to do with the happiness or sadness of life. An unkind word may destroy the brightest day. A kind and gentle word will drive away a dark cloud. A little word of Christian invitation may win a soul for Christ. A little word of prayer will bring as its answer God's richest blessings. Watch your words. Remember that we are to account for all our words in the day of judgment.

**A Little Love** (John 12:1-8): It may have seemed a very little thing to Mary to break the box of ointment on the Saviour, but this little act was prompted by a great love. It is the little love-prompted deeds that do so much to add happiness to the lives of others.

**A Chance Meeting** (John 4:1-15): We call this a chance meeting. But was it not planned by the Saviour? He took advantage of the opportunity presented by meeting the woman, and she and many others were won to salvation. If he plans meetings for us, we ought to take advantage of them, and do what we can for the benefit of those with whom we meet. As we meet others in social life, in business, as we travel, wherever we may be, let us remember that these meetings were planned by our Saviour and he wants us to use for him the opportunities which they present.

Little Things That Make or Mar

(Song of Sol. 2:15; Prov. 25:11): One of the things the husbandman had to contend with was the foxes that destroyed the vines. It was not so hard to keep out the grown foxes, as it was to prevent the little foxes from slipping in through the cracks between the stones of which the walls were built. What we have to guard against are the little sins. They slip into our lives so easily and usually without our noticing them. But they destroy the tender vines that ought to bear fruit for the Master.

Words spoken in due season are both beautiful and valuable. They will bring smiles to the faces of others, joy to their hearts, and salvation to their souls. A word of welcome to the stranger at church will

(Continued on page 16)

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